

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original): An information processing system comprising:
a license server providing a license for utilizing content; and
a terminal requesting the license from the license server, obtaining the license, and
utilizing the content based on the license,

wherein one of the license server and the terminal includes:

duplicate-license determination means for determining whether or not the license
requested by the terminal from the license server duplicates a license already held by the
terminal, and

wherein the terminal includes:

license-duplication reporting means for reporting license duplication indicating that
the license requested by the terminal from the license server duplicates a license already held
by the terminal according to the determination result by the duplicate-license determination
means.

Claim 2 (Original): An information processing apparatus for requesting a license
from a license server providing the license for utilizing content, obtaining the license, and
utilizing the content based on the license, comprising:

duplicate-license determination means for determining whether or not a license
requested from the license server duplicates an already available license; and

license-duplication reporting means for reporting license duplication indicating that
the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according
to the determination result by the duplicate-license determination means.

Claim 3 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2,
further comprising:

purchase-requesting means for requesting a purchase of the license from the license
server according to an operation of a user,

wherein the duplicate-license determination means determines whether or not the
license to be purchased duplicates an already available license after or before the purchase-
requesting means requests a purchase of the license from the license server.

Claim 4 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2,
further comprising:

confirming means for confirming whether or not a license which duplicates an already
available license is purchased when license duplication is reported by the license-duplication
reporting means.

Claim 5 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2,
further comprising:

license-identification-information acquiring means for acquiring license identification
information of a license required to utilize content from the license server; and

license-list storage means for storing a license list of licenses already purchased,
wherein the duplicate-license determination means determines whether or not a
license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license by comparing
the license identification information acquired by the license-identification-information
acquiring means with the license list stored by the license-list storage means.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method for processing information ~~for comprising:~~
requesting a license from a license server providing the license for utilizing
content[[,]];
obtaining the license[[,]]; ~~and~~
utilizing the content based on the license, ~~the method comprising:~~
~~a duplicate license determination step of~~ determining whether or not a license
requested from the license server duplicates an already available license; and
~~a license duplication reporting step of~~ reporting license duplication indicating that the
license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to
the determination result in the ~~duplicate license determination~~ determining step.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A ~~recording~~ computer-readable medium ~~recording~~
storing a computer-executable program for processing information ~~for~~ , and when the
program is executed by a computer, the computer performs steps comprising:

requesting a license from a license server providing the license for utilizing
content[[,]];
obtaining the license, ~~and~~ ;
utilizing the content based on the license, ~~the program comprising:~~
~~a duplicate license determination step of~~ determining whether or not a license
requested from the license server duplicates an already available license; and
~~a license duplication reporting step of~~ reporting license duplication indicating that the
license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to
the determination result in the ~~duplicate license determination~~ determining step.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for requesting a license from a license server providing the license for utilizing content, obtaining the license, and utilizing the content based on the license, ~~the information processing system~~ apparatus comprising:

determination-result receiving means for receiving from the license server a result of determination as to whether or not a license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license; and

license-duplication reporting means for reporting license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to the result of determination as to license duplication received by the determination-result receiving means.

Claim 10 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

confirming means for confirming whether or not a license which duplicates an already available license is purchased when license duplication is reported by the license-duplication reporting means.

Claim 11 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

content-identification-information sending means for sending to the license server content identification information for identifying the content to be utilized,

wherein the determination-result receiving means receives from the license server a result of determination as to whether or not the license required to utilize the content

identified with the content identification information sent by the content-identification-information sending means duplicates an already available license.

Claim 12 (Original): A method for processing information for requesting a license from a license server providing the license for utilizing content, obtaining the license, and utilizing the content based on the license, the method comprising:

a determination-result receiving step of receiving from the license server a result of determination as to whether or not the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license; and

a license-duplication reporting step of reporting license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to the result of determination as to license duplication received in the determination-result receiving step.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A ~~recording~~ computer-readable medium ~~recording~~ storing a computer-executable program for processing information ~~for, and when the program is executed by a computer, the computer performs steps comprising:~~

requesting a license from a license server providing the license for utilizing content[[,]];

obtaining the license, ~~and~~ ;

utilizing the content based on the license, ~~the program comprising:-~~;

~~a determination result receiving step of~~ receiving from the license server a result of determination as to whether or not the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license; and

~~a license duplication reporting step of~~ reporting license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to the result of determination as to license duplication received in the ~~determination result~~ receiving step.

Claim 15 (Original): An information processing apparatus for providing a license for utilizing content in response to a request by a terminal utilizing the content, comprising:

query means for making an inquiry about licenses already held by the terminal;

duplicate-license determination means for determining whether or not the license requested by the terminal duplicates a license already held by the terminal; and

determination-result sending means for sending a determination result by the duplicate-license determination means to the terminal.

Claim 16 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

license-information storage means for storing information about the license provided to the terminal,

wherein the query means asks the license-information storage means for licenses already held by the terminal.

Claim 17 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the query means asks a management server managing information about the license provided to the terminal for licenses already held by the terminal.

Claim 18 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein, when the duplicate-license determination means determines that the license requested by the terminal duplicates a license already held by the terminal and when a message confirming purchase of the license that duplicates the license already held by the terminal is sent from the terminal, the license requested by the terminal is provided to the terminal.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method for processing information for providing a license for utilizing content in response to a request by a terminal utilizing the content, the method comprising:

~~a query step of making an inquiry about licenses already held by the terminal;~~
~~a duplicate license determination step of determining whether or not the license~~
requested by the terminal duplicates a license already held by the terminal; and
~~a determination result sending step of sending a determination result in the duplicate-~~
~~license determination~~ determining step to the terminal.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A ~~recording~~ computer-readable medium ~~recording~~ storing a computer-executable program for processing information for providing a license for

utilizing content in response to a request by a terminal utilizing the content, and when the program is executed by a computer, the computer performs steps comprising:

~~a query step~~ of making an inquiry about licenses already held by the terminal;
~~a duplicate-license determination step~~ of determining whether or not the license requested by the terminal duplicates a license already held by the terminal; and
~~a determination result sending step~~ of sending a determination result in the ~~duplicate-license determination~~ determining step to the terminal.

Claim 22 (New): An information processing system comprising:

a license server providing a license for utilizing content; and
a terminal requesting the license from the license server, obtaining the license, and
utilizing the content based on the license,

wherein one of the license server and the terminal includes:

a duplicate-license determination section configured to determine whether the license requested by the terminal from the license server duplicates a license already held by the terminal, and

wherein the terminal includes:

a license-duplication reporting section configured to report license duplication indicating that the license requested by the terminal from the license server duplicates a license already held by the terminal according to the determination result by the duplicate-license determination section.

Claim 23 (New): An information processing apparatus for requesting a license from a license server providing the license for utilizing content, obtaining the license, and utilizing the content based on the license, comprising:

a duplicate-license determination section configured to determine whether a license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license; and

a license-duplication reporting section configured to report license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to the determination result by the duplicate-license determination section.

Claim 24 (New): An information processing apparatus for requesting a license from a license server providing the license for utilizing content, obtaining the license, and utilizing the content based on the license, the apparatus comprising:

a determination-result receiving section configured to receive from the license server a result of determination as to whether a license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license; and

a license-duplication reporting section configured to report license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to the result of determination as to license duplication received by the determination-result receiving section.

Claim 25 (New): An information processing apparatus for providing a license for utilizing content in response to a request by a terminal utilizing the content, comprising:

a query section configured to make an inquiry about licenses already held by the terminal;

a duplicate-license determination section configured to determine whether the license requested by the terminal duplicates a license already held by the terminal; and

a determination-result sending section configured to send a determination result by the duplicate-license determination section to the terminal.